



The Guardians of the Cedars Party - The Movement for Lebanese Nationalism issued the following communiqué:

The masters of politics in Lebanon are wagering on the Syrian-Saudi umbrella by asserting that it is the only guarantee for the security and stability of Lebanon. In fact, they have coined the acronym "S.S." to facilitate the linguistic usage of the notion – it is now part of the Lebanese political lexicon – and are bragging about this contribution of theirs as if it is the healing balm to the country's ills and problems. In their opinion, the balance of security is governed by this equation, improving or worsening depending on the status of relations between Syria and Saudi Arabia.

While it is true that Lebanon, like other small countries, is influenced by what happens around it, it is also true that the level of this influence rises or declines according to the internal immunity of the country in question, and also in proportion to the acumen of the people in power to repel the negative repercussions and leverage the positive repercussions from such events. Unfortunately, in Lebanon, this internal immunity is absolutely compromised by the sectarian and religious wrangling coupled with the abject poor quality of the people in power. This indeed strikes at the effectiveness of the aforementioned equation and proves its flimsiness in dealing with the Lebanese crisis.

There are other reasons that substantiate the inadequacy of wagering on the Syrian-Saudi umbrella, not the least of which are the following:

- 1- The Syrian-Saudi summit that was recently held in Baabda has so far failed to defuse the escalating tensions between the parties to the conflict. Indeed, it has compounded the intensity of the conflict beyond its pre-summit levels, thus presaging an imminent explosion that could well spill across the Lebanese borders.
- 2- Each of Syria and Saudi Arabia, like other neighboring countries, has its own agenda in Lebanon. It acts in Lebanon according to its national interests regardless of whether the latter occasionally converge or diverge from Lebanon's higher interests.
- 3- The Syrian tutelage that crushed Lebanon for 30 years occurred at a peak of good relations between Damascus and Riyadh, and in fact it materialized as a result of a Syrian-Saudi agreement at the Riyadh summit of 1967. Not to forget the other poisoned gift that resulted from such a Syrian-Saudi entente, namely the infamous Taif Agreement that distorted the constitution, deepened the chasm between the Lebanese, and kindled sectarian strife to new unprecedented levels, leading to the fracturing of the country we experience today.

The conclusion from the preceding is that wagering on outside actors is futile, an evasion of responsibility and an admission of failure. The only equation that is good for Lebanon's safety and stability is the "L.L." equation, i.e. a Lebanese-Lebanese umbrella which Youssef Al-Sawda, one of the pioneers of Lebanese nationalism, summarized by saying in the early 1920s: "Lebanon's life is in the unity of its communities," which implicitly means that Lebanon's death is in the quarreling of its communities. Will those concerned for Lebanon ever listen?

Lebanon, at your service
Abu Arz
October 1, 2010